Piling up of Foodgrains in FCI Godowns in Bihar

†142. SHRIMATI KUMKUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains sent by other States have been piled up in the godowns of FCI in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 1.2.2001, against total storage capacity of 6.09 lakh tonnes, food stocks with the Food Corporation of India in Bihar are only 5.07 lakh tonnes.

Distribution of essential items at cheaper rates in Maharashtra

†143. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment of the number of such families in Maharashtra which would be provided with sugar, wheat, rice etc. at cheaper rates;

(b) whether Government have issued any guidelines regarding distribution of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) As per the Government of India estimates the number of families living below poverty line

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(BPL) in Maharashtra is 65.34 lakh on the basis of projected populations of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As per the reports received from the State Government of Maharashtra, they have identified 58.11 lakh BPL families who have been issued ration cards and are drawing subsidised items under Public Distribution System (PDS) at cheaper rates.

(b) to (d) The Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997 with its focus on the poor assures allocation of subsidised foodgrains for BPL families. Detailed guidelines were issued for implementation of the scheme to all State Governments/ UT Administrations. The States/UTs have been requested in the guidelines for implementation of TPDS that the thrust should be to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters, tappers, weavers, black-smiths, carpenters, etc. in the rural areas and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sector like porters, rickshaw pullers and handcart pullers, fruit and flower sellers on the pavements, etc. in urban areas. Based on these guidelines TPDS was introduced in Maharashtra.

With a view to restructuring of PDS for levy sugar, the Government have decided that w.e.f. 1st February, 2001, levy sugar supply under PDS will be restricted to only BPL families except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Island Territories where the existing arrangements will continue. The Government have also decided that the population to be covered for supply of sugar under PDS would be on the basis of projected population as on 1st March, 2000. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 grams to 500 grams per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get more benefit.